Newport Town Council Meeting Minutes September 15, 2016

Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Spencer announced that the meeting was in compliance with the Delaware Open Meeting Act.

Attendance: Mayor Michael Spencer, Vice Mayor John Joswick, Commissioner Kathy Joseph, Town Manager Wendy King, Commissioner Timothy Chatburn, Commissioner Florence Czerwisnki, Solicitor Stephen Robinson, and Police Chief Michael Capriglione.

Minutes from the meeting of August 18, 2016, with an amendment to add Commissioner Czerwinski to attendance were approved via motion by Vice Mayor Joswick and a second from Commissioner Chatburn. All ayes.

Public Comment: Bill Lower, Harvey Hanna & Associates, thanked the town for its part in the First Responders/Recovery Day held on Saturday, September 10, 2016.

Stephanie Banks, resident, W. Ayre Street, questioned enforcement of the noise ordinance. She advised that she was woken up at 5:30 in the morning by the cement company on one occasion. After a few minutes of discussion, Code Enforcement would notify the company of the ordinance. She also was thankful that the trees were trimmed up in her area.

Erin from Hope Street reported that the First Responders Day, held on Saturday, September 10, 2016, was a nice event with a good turnout and looked forward to next year.

Town Manager's Report: Online court payments began on September 6 and if successful, the opportunity will be rolled out to include taxes, business licenses and permit fees. The town received a donation in the amount of \$600.00 from ServPro to be put toward the cost of a bullet-proof vest for the town's new Police K-9, Tango. A checking account has been established for the K-9 to house any donations received. The dog will be placed on the town's liability insurance effective 10/1/2016, when training is complete. Fall cleanup is 10/22/16. Notification to all property owners will be mailed to advise of public hearing/workshop regarding the redevelopment of the GB district west of 141. Email was received from the Department of the Navy regarding the cannon. Lease information was forwarded.

Police Chief's Report - Chief Capriglione read off his monthly statistics. Police department received a grant for violent crimes. Police K-9 Tango and his handler, Corporal Jay Davidson, will be visiting to introduce themselves.

Alderman's Report - \$46,583 in fines/costs/security fee.

Maintenance Report - Bayshore Ford quote unchanged as they are not willing to reduce the interest rate any lower on the truck. Sewer pump in the industrial park went down and had to be replaced.

Code Enforcement - Trailer at 120 N. Walnut was removed but will be returning when the registration is found so it can be tagged. No activity on 102 E. Ayre Street.

Legal: Solicitor Robinson worked on redevelopment ordinance. East Coast Survey is working on survey at Old Mill Lane.

Commissioners: Vice Mayor Joswick - Closing day for Stanton-Newport Little League. He thanked Harvey Hanna because their gift to the town allowed for him to donate to the little league.

Mayor Spencer thought the First Responders Day was a great event and looks forward to working with them in planning next year's event. He made comments about the budget and asked the commission to come up with revenue ideas for the remaining few months of the year. Court receivables were inquired about and without a structured collection effort and the DMV no longer suspending driver's licenses, we have to depend on the alderman and court liaison to encourage paying the tickets. Bill Lower, Harvey Hanna, pointed out that the new redevelopment ordinance will propel economic standing with permit fees, increased tax base, etc.

New Business: Corporal Davidson and Tango introduced themselves to council.

Vice Mayor Spencer made a motion to adjourn; Commissioner Chatburn seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm.